



# Himalayan Echo



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NEPAL REGION NEWSLETTER

Mary Ward Special

## Celebrating Mary Ward Week in Nepal - 2022

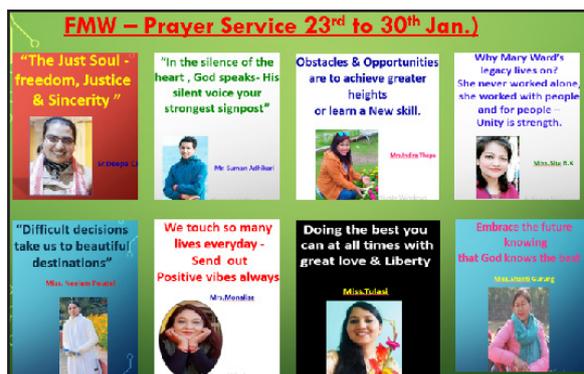
### We owe you a debt of gratitude dear Mother Mary Ward!

### St. Mary's, Pokhara

FMW unit, Pokhara, formed a preparatory committee to see to the logistics of the various activities of Mary Ward Week 2022. All the plans for physical activities were toppled as the country announced school lockdowns due to the spread of the third wave of corona virus. Imbibing the spirit of Mary Ward our FMW members did not give up but looked for new ways of celebrating the week meaningfully.

The valiant group gathered together every evening on a virtual platform for an hour of prayer and personal sharing. The weeklong celebration began on the 23rd January - 437th Birth Anniversary of Venerable Mother Mary Ward - with a mean-

and inspirational. The community too joined in the prayer services conducted by the members of FMW. The students of Class IX created a video highlighting the virtues and maxims of Mary Ward. The face book pages too were flooded with creative videos of the students, maxims of



ingful prayer service animated by Sr. Deepa and the teachers of FMW unit based on the theme given in the Mary Ward Booklet for the year 2022 by our Generalate.

The teachers were so creative in conducting the prayer services and the personal sharing was so heart touching

Mary Ward, paintings and pencil sketches on Venerable Mary Ward.

The climax of the Mary Ward Week was on 30th January on the occasion of the 377th Death Anniversary of Mary Ward when we invited a few of our ex-students to share how Mary Ward and her life values influenced their lives. The inspiring and impressive sharing gave us hope that the vision and the dream of Mother Mary Ward is bearing fruit, and her words, "women in time to come will do much", has become a reality.

The students of Class X had an opportunity to interact with the ex-students as they greatly contribute to the cause of women empowerment. As it is said, the

virtues are not taught but they are caught; yes truly the students are instilled with the values and virtues of Mary Ward. Another surprise for the day was the re-created painted life of Mary Ward by one of our very ac-

Ward week with the Loreto sisters in Dharan.

-Sr. Neelu Carmel

Mary Ward, Lubhu

We had a grace-filled Mary Ward Week celebration in the community as well as in the school. The booklet prepared by CJ and IBVM in conversation with Teresa Ball who initiated the Loreto Branch of the institute was a great help for reflection, contemplation and prayer. It took us to a deeper level with regard to 'Becoming One'.

A pilgrimage based on the Mind and Maxims of Mary Ward presented by the Friends of Mary Ward, CJ and IBVM was in-



tive teachers Miss Sita B.K. and she named it "Sita's Version of the Painted life of Mary Ward" in which she put in a lot of creativity, artistry, imagination and hard work. So, Mary Ward Week was a time for all of us to come to know more about her, to appreciate her and follow the legacy left by her.

-Sr. Deepa Olikunnel

Mary Ward, Sirsia

As the weeklong activities for Mary Ward week gained momentum in the Region, we the sisters in Mary Ward Sirsia decided to rejuvenate ourselves spiritually with the reflection materials given by the



deed inspiring and motivating to each of us and we could imbibe the virtues and qualities of our leader to respond to the daily challenges in our lives today, to listen to the 'cry of the poor and of the earth', and for 'reaching out and beyond'.

In the school Mary Ward Week celebration went online as the school was closed



Generalate. Each of us took turns to conduct prayers meaningfully for an hour in the evenings. We also creatively composed hymns on Mary Ward and sang together in honor of her during our prayer hours. We were also privileged to have a joint celebration of Mary



due to corona virus. Our students prepared a few flashcards on the maxims of Mary Ward and translated them into Nepali. The senior students with the guidance of FMW teachers had conversations, speeches and poems as to how they have been inspired by Mary Ward and they prayed that her legacy may continue to lead generations yet to come.

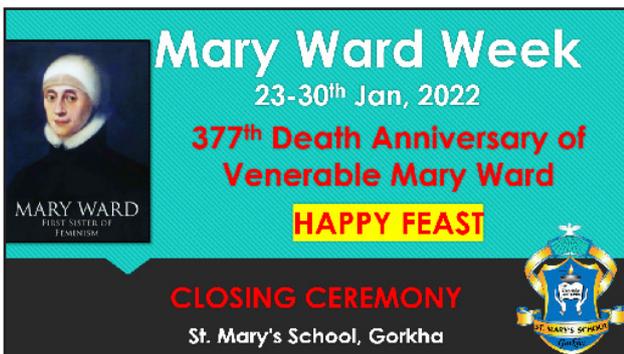
–Sr. Nancy Edamanasseril

St. Mary’s, Gorkha

Mary Ward Week 2022 was celebrated online through virtual assemblies. Each



class, with the help of their teachers, prepared speeches, songs, dances, skits, power point presentations, prayers etc. for each day, highlighting the life and maxims of Venerable Mary Ward and her work which is continued by her sisters till this day. The last day, i.e., 30th January, was allotted to the



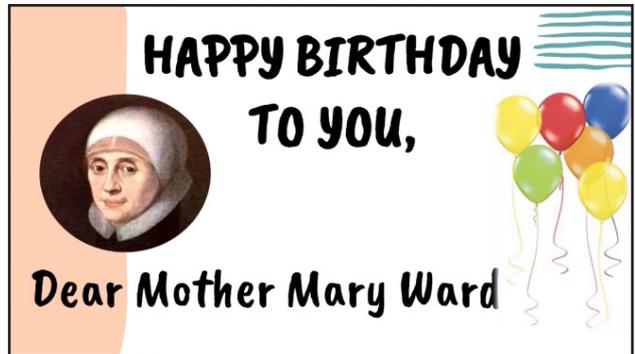
FMW teachers who organized an inspiring virtual assembly to commemorate the death anniversary of Venerable Mary Ward.

–Sr. Mariette Pinto

St Mary’s, Kathmandu

The grand celebrations of the Mary Ward Week, like every other year, began on

23rd of January. The high spirits, excitement and enthusiasm could be seen and felt all around the school even before the celebrations began. And within all the excitement,



one could feel the sacred honour and deep respect we all had for our foundress, Venerable Mary Ward.

The programme, which had initially been planned to be celebrated regally within the school premises with the physical presence of all staff and students, had to be amended due to the rising cases of the Covid-19 within the valley. Online mode was



advised by the government for all schools, and so the programme had to be celebrated virtually. This minor setback however did not dampen the spirit of the participants in any way, and only made us more enthusiastic and determined to make the celebrations even better.





One could not ask for a better opening to this pious week than a prayer service conducted by the students of the Friends of Mary Ward movement. During this service, the chosen subject of discussion was the maxim, "Be diligent to root out your vices, but not to hide them." The students meaningfully discussed how a battle is raging inside each of us - Virtues versus Vices. Suggestions and, more importantly, courses of



actions were sought on workable solutions on how 'negativity' could be removed from within ourselves.

The second day of the celebration, 24th of January, also coincided with the International Education Day. It was a splendid occasion for our students to share their presentations on Mary Ward, a pioneer in women's education, and the role she played in establishing schools for young girls - a legacy that will forever be remembered.

Throughout the week, various other activities were held, each one paying tribute to Venerable Mary Ward. These activities included reflections on her Maxims

and dance performances highlighting Mary Ward's belief in the capacity of women. The junior school students narrated the life story of Mary Ward as her life has inspired people of all stages – children, young or old.

The teachers were enthusiastic to present a prayer assembly enlightening the audience of the 5 Cs – the aim of Mary Ward education. These values of Mary Ward education - Character, Competence, Compas-



sion, Commitment and Conscience - were stressed and expanded upon by the speakers during the meeting. The aim of these speeches, amongst other things, was to encourage the audience to become individuals who could make a difference to society, especially to the underprivileged section.

Charity too was a part of this programme as "God loves a cheerful giver" was one of Mother Mary Ward's notable sayings. This was rightfully followed during the week as donations in the form of clothes and food were extended to a group of refugees by the St. Mary's School family under the supervision of Rev. Sister Jessy C.J., Director of all C.J. schools, Nepal. These generous actions provided profound satisfaction to everyone.

Thus, with immense fulfilment, ended the Mary Ward Week with great pride and





gratitude to our patroness. Everyone experienced contentment in being able to pay homage to Venerable Mary Ward and make her known to the world. May these celebrations around the world bring us closer to the dream and vision of Mary Ward and inspire us to live life meaningfully with fresh enthusiasm, determination and joy and become agents of a peaceful world.

**-Ms. Jaya H. Subba**

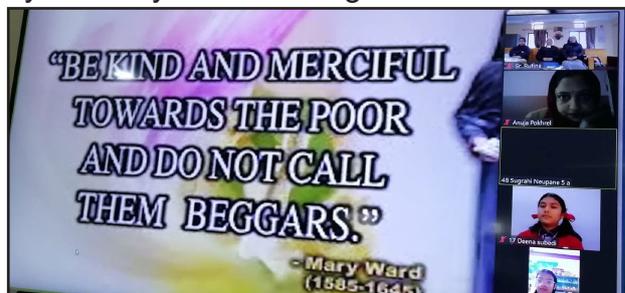
### St. Mary's, Biratnagar

Mary Ward Week began with a Solemn Eucharistic celebration. Sirsia Community too joined us for the mass followed by a short entrainment programme and we ended with a delicious lunch. The week was spent very meaningfully with the help of our prayer booklet, beautifully written by members of Congregation of Jesus and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters). Together we journeyed with Mary Ward, touching all the important aspects of her life. Praying across borders, reflecting on Mary Ward's life and inspiration, and her influence in our Congregation today, is an act of unity and of grace belonging in our Institute. We realized that we are women of freedom, jus-

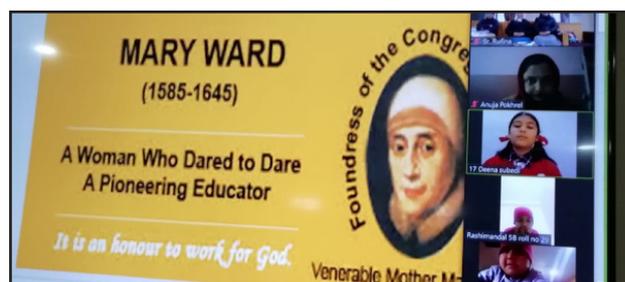


tice, and sincerity, grounded in the joy of the gospel and in relationship with Christ.

The week was very enriching and one could see the enthusiasm among our students and teachers. An outstanding quality of Mary Ward was given to each class



which was the theme for a particular day. The teachers and Students were very much excited and started their preparation in full swing. Although the school was closed due to Covid, our teachers and students made up their mind to do it virtually in the best way possible using their creativity and talents. On 30th January a prayer service was conducted by FMW members depicting a woman who enlightened the world with her unflinching courage: in other words, Mary Ward who dared to venture into the unknown. It was an enriching experience for all of us to see how the students and teachers have imbibed the



spirit of Mary Ward to a certain extent. It was a week of tremendous blessing for all of us.

Likewise, our community too had a week of prayer and reflection on the life of our dear Foundress. It was really a time of grace to be with all the members of Mary Ward family. On 30th January Sr. Marilyn conducted the prayer using her creativity inviting each one to have an open will, open heart and an open mind to embrace the future.

**-Sr. Marilyn Murickal**